

**I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

**Please replace the claims with the following version in which claims 1-12 have been amended and claim 13 has been cancelled.**

1. (Currently Amended) A high-speed connector for connecting at least one cable to a mating connector, the cable having a plurality of signal conductors and at least one grounding conductors therein, comprising:
  - a holder [(100)] for holding a free end of the cable [(12)] in a preselected position;
  - a plurality of conductive signal terminals [(112)] and one ground terminal [(114)], each signal [(112)] and ground [(114)] terminal including a termination end and a contact end disposed at opposite ends of the terminal for terminating to said cable [(12)] signal and ground conductors;
  - an insulative housing formed from interengaging upper [(210)] and lower [(250)] body portions, the housing having a mating face for mating with the mating connector and a cable face for engaging said cable [(12)], the upper [(210)] and lower [(250)] body portions cooperatively holding the cable holder [(100)] and said terminal [(112, 114)] in place within the housing [(210, 250)], the upper [(210)] body portion having an upper grounding hole [(212)] extending through said upper [(210)] body portion, the lower [(250)] body portion including a lower grounding hole [(264)] extending through the lower [(250)] body portion;
  - said housing [(210, 250)] further including a plurality of mating openings [(260)] formed along the mating face thereof, each of the mating openings [(260)] communicating with a single terminal [(112, 114)] of said connector; and,
  - a grounding shell substantially surrounding the upper [(210)] and lower [(250)] body portions of said housing and including a plurality of openings formed by connective bridges [(330)] that extend between an upper plate [(310)] and a lower plate [(320)] of the grounding shell, the plurality of openings formed thereby corresponding to and aligned with said housing mating openings [(260)], said grounding shell [(310, 320, 330)] further including grounding arms [(312, 322)] that electrically and mechanically contact said grounding terminal [(114)] within said housing [(210, 250)], thereby providing a grounded shell substantially enclosing said connector, [characterized in that:]

at least one of the grounding arms [(312, 322)] of the grounding shell is in electrical and mechanical contact with the grounding terminal [(114)] so as to maintain the grounding shell at a reference potential thereby providing an electrical shield that substantially surrounds signal terminals [(112)] enclosed in said connector.

- 2 (Currently Amended) .A connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said housing lower body portion [(250)] includes a plurality of sidewalls [(258)] disposed thereon and extending longitudinally within said lower body portion [(250)] to define a plurality of terminal-receiving partitions [(262)], said terminals [(112, 114)] being disposed in the terminal-receiving partitions [(262)].
- 3 (Currently Amended) .A connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said housing upper [(210)] body and the lower [(250)] body portions are joined to each other by ultrasonic welding.
4. (Currently Amended) A connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said housing upper [(210)] and lower [(250)] body portions include a plurality of assembly holes [(214)], and said cable holder [(100)] includes a plurality of assembly posts [(102)] projecting therefrom, the assembly posts (102) being received within said assembly holes (214), thereby fixing said cable holder [(100)] in said housing.
5. (Currently Amended) A connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said cable [(12)] has a plurality of cable wires [(14)] are joined to said terminals [(112, 114)].
- 6 (Currently Amended) .A connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said grounding shell includes an upper grounding plate [(310)] with an upper grounding arm [(312)] that extends through said housing upper grounding hole [(212)] into contact with said grounding terminal [(114)], and a lower grounding plate [(320)] with a lower grounding arm [(322)] that extends through said housing lower body portion [(250)] into contact with said grounding terminal [(114)]; and,  
a plurality of [connection bridges (330)] bridge portions connecting the front ends of the upper [(310)] and lower [(320)] grounding plates together and further defining

mating openings which correspond to and are aligned with said housing mating openings [(262)].

7. (Currently Amended) A connector as claimed in claim 6, wherein said upper [(312)] and lower [(322)] grounding arms contact said grounding terminal [(114)] from opposite sides thereof to define a three layer grounding connection.
8. (Currently Amended) A connector as claimed in claim 6, wherein said upper [(310)] and lower [(320)] grounding plates each have a length that extends between said housing mating face and said cable holder [(100)].
9. (Currently Amended) A connector as claimed in claim 8, wherein said upper [(310)] and lower [(320)] grounding plates have equal lengths.
10. (Currently Amended) A connector as claimed in claim 6, wherein said upper [(312)] and lower [(322)] grounding arms are formed in respective center portions of said grounding shell upper [(310)] and lower [(320)] grounding plates.
11. (Currently Amended) A connector as claimed in claim 6, wherein at least one of said grounding shell upper [(310)] and lower [(320)] grounding plates include an elastic flap [(315)] formed thereon and oriented transversely thereto for contacting a transverse portion of said mating connector.
12. (Currently Amended) A connector as claimed in claim 6, wherein each of said grounding shell upper [(310)] and lower [(320)] grounding plates includes an elastic flap [(316)] formed thereon and oriented transversely thereto for contacting a transverse portion of said mating connector.